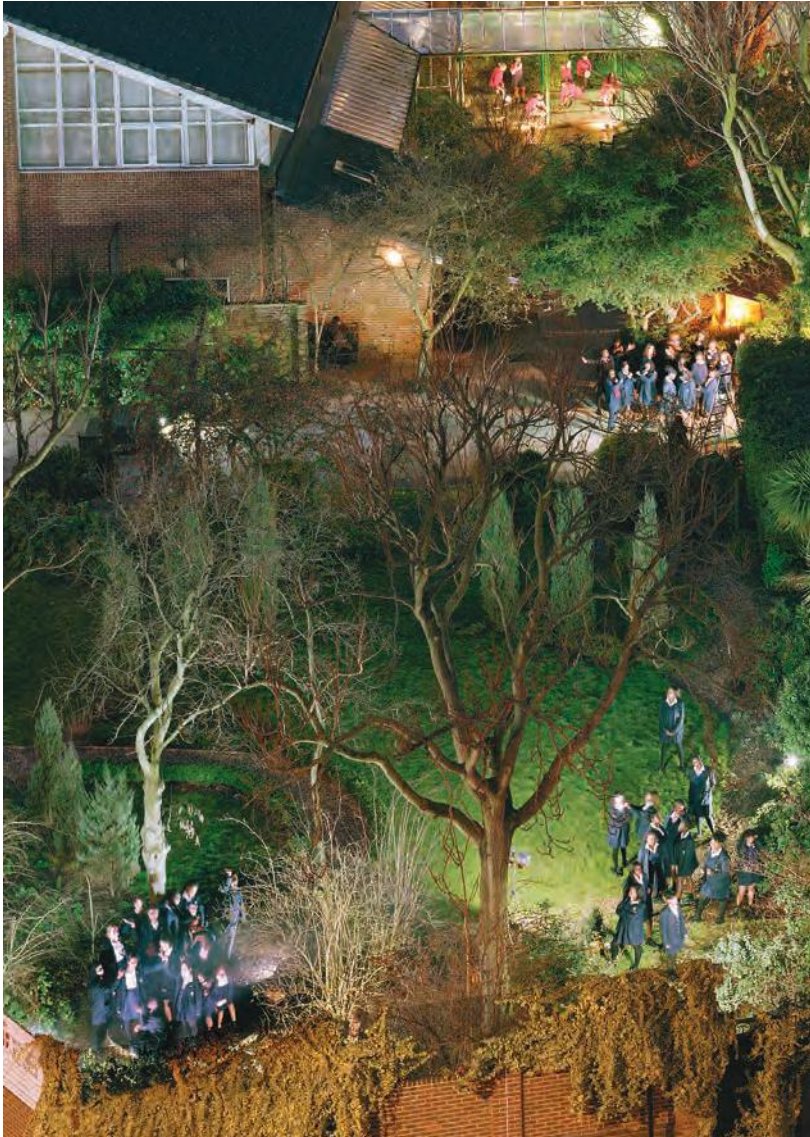


CREATIVE CONNECTIONS

National
Portrait
Gallery



Year Four: South of the River

10 June – 6 September 2016
npg.org.uk/creativeconnections

Creative Connections is generously supported by the Palley family.

CREATIVE CONNECTIONS

Creative Connections 2012–2016

Creative Connections is a four-year creative arts project to connect young people in different London boroughs with contemporary artists to make new artworks that explore identity and place through the lens of the Gallery's Collection. The project draws on the stories of inspirational people and traces their links with areas of East, West, North and South London.

Each year artists collaborate with GCSE Art students to create original works that are exhibited at the Gallery alongside the portraits that inspired them.

During this four-year programme our partner schools and artists have been: St Paul's Way School, Tower Hamlets and artist Lucy Steggals (2013); Brentside High School, Ealing and artist Eelyn Lee (2014); Haverstock School, Camden and artist Kate Peters (2015) and St Saviours and St Olaves School, Southwark and artist Simon Terrill (2016).

Looking forward we aim to develop the project further by working in partnerships nationally.

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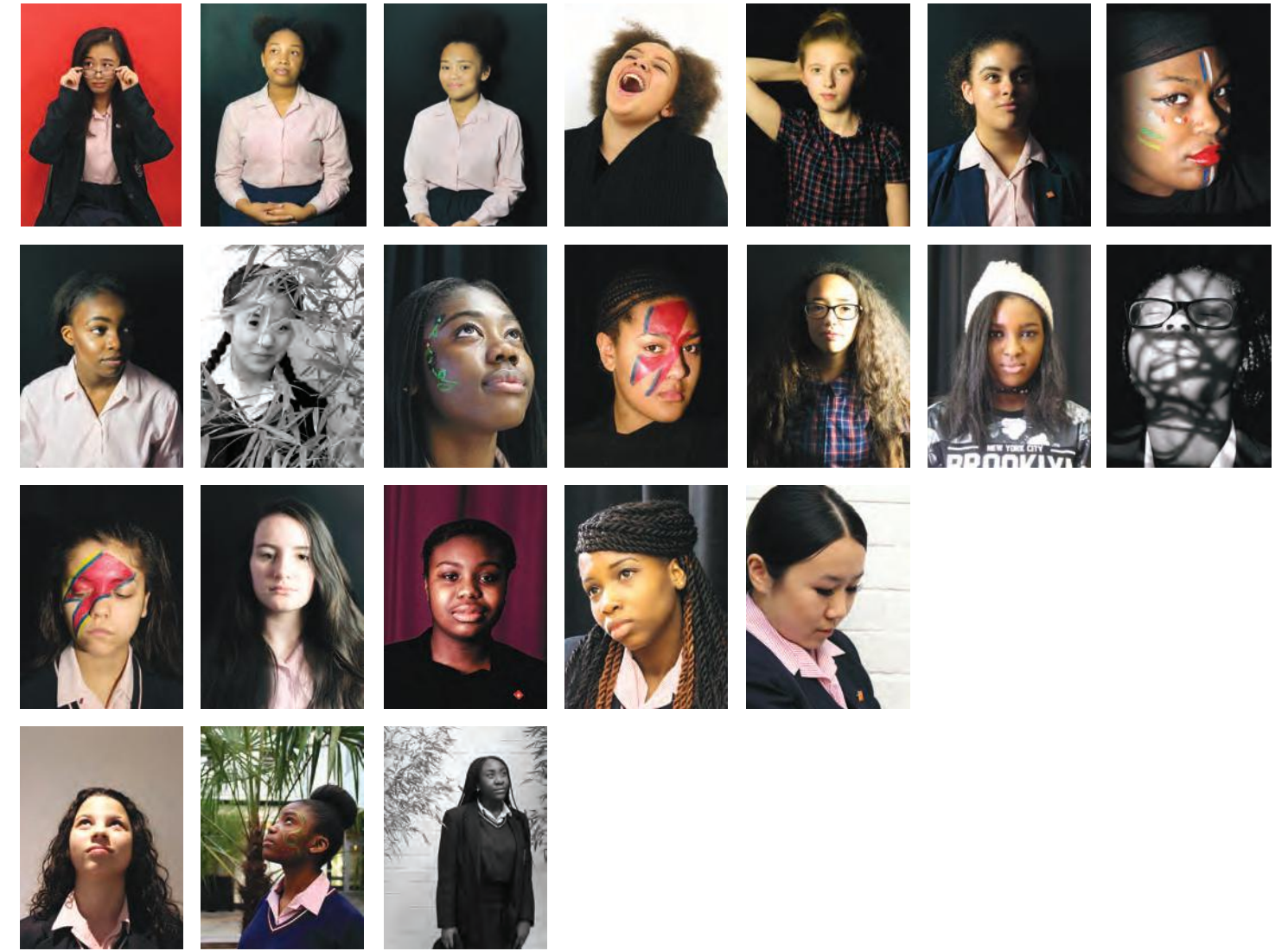
Year 4: South of the River

GCSE art students from St Saviour's and St Olave's School, Southwark worked with artist Simon Terrill to explore the portraits and lives of nine inspiring people connected to their local area.

During the project, the students visited the Gallery, met curators, selected the project artworks and learnt how to research in the Archive. At school, they created their own art and developed a deeper understanding of portraiture, representation and a sense of place.

Together Simon and the students created the artwork, *South of the River: Crowd Theory*, included in the *Creative Connections 2016* exhibition. It is a celebration of their lives and school, and the inspiring people associated with Southwark and Lambeth.

Project participants



Creative Connections participants: GCSE Art students from St Saviour's and St Olave's school, Southwark.

Project Journal

The Art Department at St Saviour's and St Olave's School and their twenty-two GCSE art students spent six months developing their creative skills with artist Simon Terrill in collaboration with the Gallery. They explored the Collection, learnt about portraiture and identified portraits of people with local connections who would be the inspiration for the project.

Simon introduced the students to his practice by inviting them to be the subjects in long-exposure photographs and then setting them a series of photographic assignments.

The students worked with curators at the Gallery to edit the selection of inspiring people down to nine. They then investigated the approaches taken by the different photographers to represent these sitters and experimented with lighting, objects, gesture and pose to embody these ideas in their own portraits and collages.

Simon made an exhibition of his artworks at the school to introduce the students and teachers to his practice and the project. The GCSE art students collaborated with him producing briefs for the nine groups based on their visual knowledge and their research into each sitter. Students, teachers and a production crew then came together to create *South of the River: Crowd Theory*.

For the students, the project didn't finish with the shoot: they used their learning to create artworks as part of their GCSE art exam.



I realised you can take risks and do creative things, even if you think it's going to turn out right



You may not want to do something at the beginning, but at the end you'll be glad you did it!



It kind of makes me feel like I've been immortalised

Where we live there are really amazing people who have done so many things



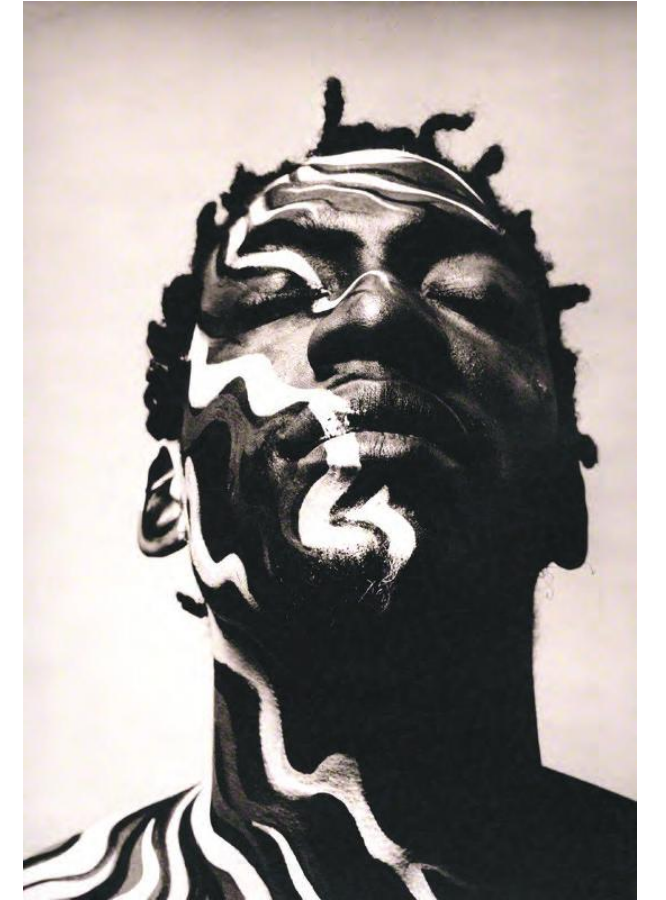
Roots Manuva b.1972

Musician

Did you know? Roots Manuva's real name is Rodney Hylton Smith.

South of the River Connection: Grew up in Stockwell. His first album was recorded in a community studio on the Angell Town estate.

Biography: One of Britain's leading hip-hop artists, Roots Manuva is heavily influenced by the community in which he grew up and his family's links to the Pentecostal church. His ninth studio album, *Bleeds*, was released in 2015.



By Jennie Baptiste
Lith print, 1999
Given by the photographer, 2004
x126334

You have to try and find a way to combine everyone's views without them feeling it's not good enough
Photography by: Ms Bisdee, Laura Blair, Ruth Clarke, Ollie Harrop, Matt Lewis, Yunique & Tatenda - the Media Crew

Malorie Blackman b.1962

Writer

Did you know? Blackman originally worked in computer science before becoming an author.

South of the River Connection: Grew up in Clapham.

Biography: Blackman is an acclaimed author who has written over sixty books for children and young people, including the popular *Noughts and Crosses* series that foregrounds issues of race and ethnic identity. She was the Children's Laureate 2013–2015, and received an OBE in 2008 for her contribution to children's literature.



By Maud Sulter
Polaroid print, 2001
P949(2)

James Lovelock b.1919

Scientist & Environmentalist

Did you know? During World War Two, when Lovelock was researching how to prevent burns, he tested on his own skin instead of using rabbits.

South of the River Connection: Grew up in Brixton and attended Strand School, Tulse Hill.

Biography: He is the originator of Gaia Theory, the idea that the Earth is like the human body – an interconnected self-regulating system. Gaia Theory has profoundly influenced how environmental scientists view issues such as climate change and the loss of biodiversity. He was awarded a CBE in 1990.



By Paul Tozer
Bromide print, 25 July 1994
x45758

Rio Ferdinand b.1978

Footballer

Did you know? Ferdinand won a scholarship to attend the Central School of Ballet when he was eleven years old and trained as a dancer for four years.

South of the River Connection: Born in Camberwell and lived on the Friary estate in Peckham.

Biography: Ferdinand made his debut for the England team aged nineteen and represented his country eighty-one times. In 2009, he established the Rio Ferdinand Foundation, helping to provide education and employment opportunities for young people.



By Mark Guthrie
Colour coupler print, 18 March 2009
x133053

Johnson Beharry b.1979

Soldier

Did you know? Lance Corporal Johnson Beharry was the first living British recipient of the Victoria Cross since 1969. It is Britain's highest military recognition of gallantry.

South of the River Connection: He lived in Southwark and was awarded the Freedom of the Borough in 2012.

Biography: Born in Grenada, Beharry moved to the UK in 1999 and joined the Princess of Wales's Royal Regiment in 2001. He was posted to Iraq in 2004 where he saved the lives of many comrades at great personal risk and sustained serious injuries.



By Giles Price
Inkjet print, 9 May 2007
x131262

David Bowie 1947–2016

Musician

Did you know? At seventeen, Bowie, whose real name is David Jones, was interviewed on the BBC as the founder of *The Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Long-haired Men*.

South of the River Connection: Bowie was born in Brixton.

Biography: With a career spanning over five decades, Bowie was one of the most internationally significant figures in popular culture. He was renowned for his glamorous, androgynous style and musical experimentation, as well as being an actor, producer and artist.



By Brian Duffy
Inkjet print, 1973
x137463

Adele b.1988

Singer-songwriter

Did you know? Adele is affected by stage fright and often worries that she is going to forget her lyrics.

South of the River Connection: Lived in Brixton and wrote her first song, 'Hometown Glory' about south London.

Biography: Adele Laurie Blue Adkins released her first album, *19*, to critical acclaim in 2008. Her second album, *21*, reached Number One in twenty-six countries and has sold more than 30 million copies. *25*, her third album, released in 2015 is the fastest million-selling album in UK history. She was awarded an MBE in 2013 for services to music.



By Julian Broad
Colour coupler print, 17 February 2008
x139549

Dame Vivienne Westwood b.1941

Fashion Designer & Political Activist

Did you know? Before being a fashion designer Westwood was a primary school teacher.

South of the River Connection: Lives in Clapham.

Biography: Westwood has grown her fashion business from selling home-made jewellery on a stall in Portobello Market to global brand. She is famous for her designs that mix anarchy with a sense of tradition. As an activist, she supports ethical fashion and environmental concerns.



Dame Vivienne Westwood as Elizabeth I
By Gian Paolo Barbieri
Inkjet print, 1997
Given by the photographer, 2007
x131334

Peter Tatchell b.1952

Human Rights Activist

Did you know? Tatchell was arrested for attempting to carry out a citizen's arrest on Robert Mugabe, President of Zimbabwe, when visiting the UK. This photograph is an imagined recreation of the police mug shot taken after the event.

South of the River Connection: Lives in Elephant and Castle and was selected as a Labour Party candidate for Bermondsey.

Biography: Tatchell, a leading human rights activist is best known for his advocacy of the rights of LGBTQ people. He moved to Britain from Australia in 1971 and a year later helped to organise the UK's first Gay Pride march.

By Polly Borland
Bromide print, November 1999
x88486



South of the River: Crowd Theory

By Simon Terrill, C- type print 2016

This is the latest artwork in Simon Terrill's Crowd Theory series in which he creates photographs through public events that explore what happens when large groups of people gather in places of personal significance.

South of the River: Crowd Theory features 180 students at St Saviour's and St Olave's School in Southwark. Divided into nine groups, the students responded through pose and gesture to the portraits of people with 'south of the river' connections displayed in this room.

Together Simon and the students created the artwork, *South of the River: Crowd Theory*, included in the *Creative Connections 2016* exhibition. It is a celebration of their lives and school, and the inspiring people associated with Southwark and Lambeth.



Making the artwork

The photo shoot began at dusk and ended after dark on 7 March 2016 and involved over 230 people. A large-format camera was set up on the roof of a tower block opposite, construction-site lights were placed in situ, a smoke machine was activated and a DJ played music. Every ten minutes a siren was sounded, the music stopped and the school was silent as the nine groups held their pose for each long-exposure shot.

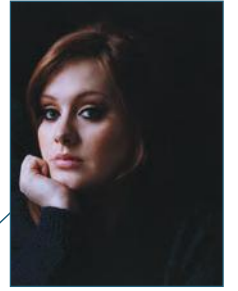
Shot on a single sheet of 8 x10 inch negative film, with no digital manipulation.



Rio Ferdinand



Dame Vivienne Westwood



Adele



Roots Manuva



Johnson Beharry



David Bowie



James Lovelock



Peter Tatchell

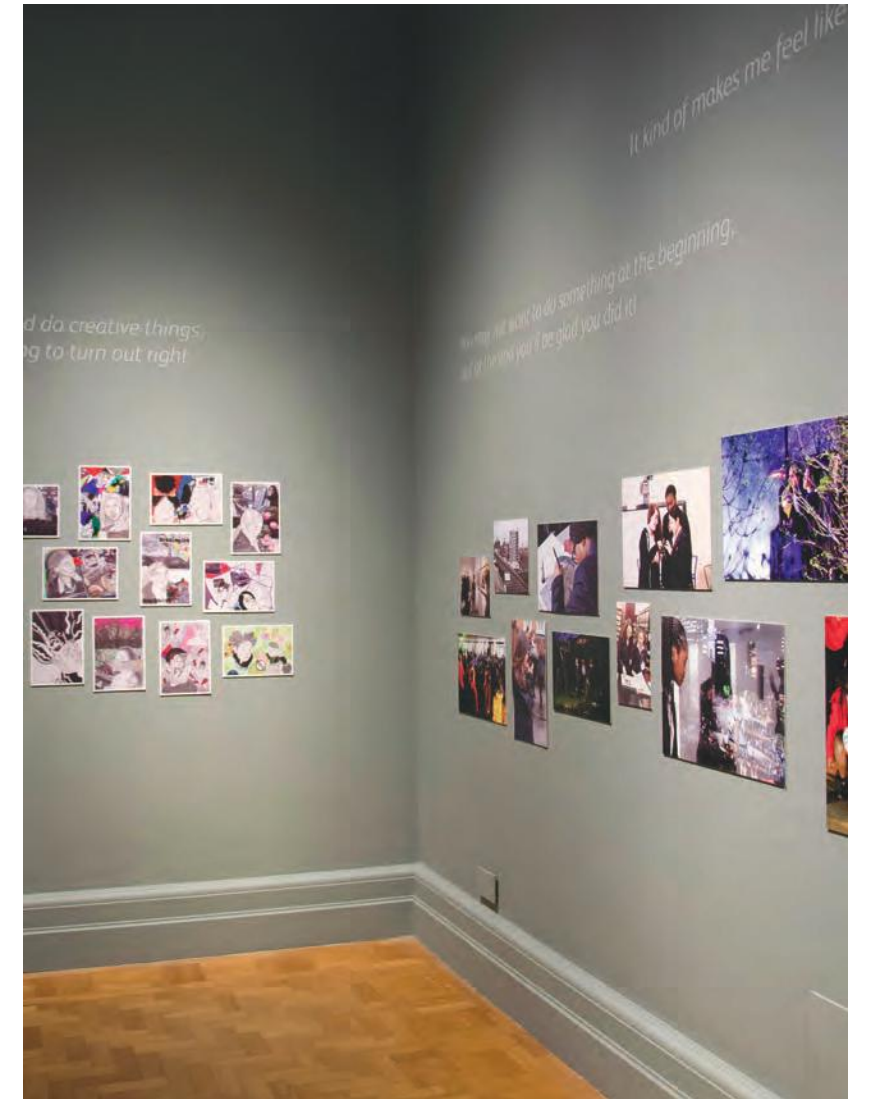
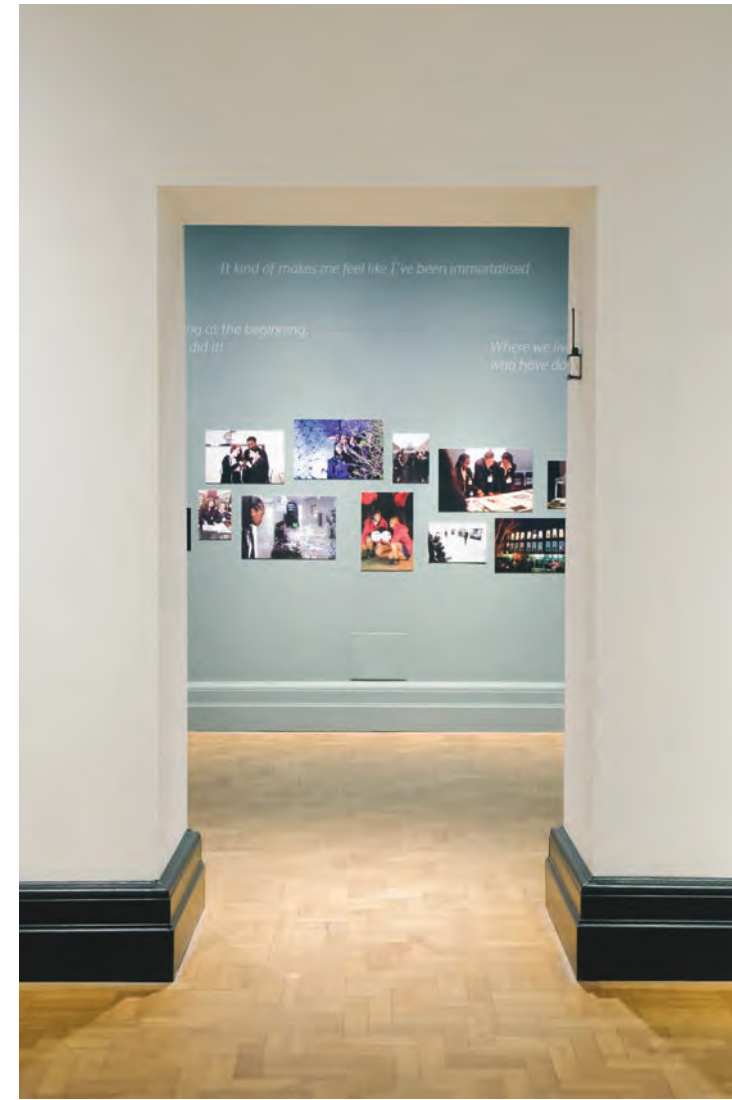


Malorie Blackman

The display







*I realised you can take risks and do creative things,
even if you don't think it's going to turn out right*

Project Journal

The Art Department at Queen's University Belfast has been a place of creative risk-taking for many years. It has been a place where students have been encouraged to take risks and do creative things, even if they don't think it's going to turn out right. This project journal is a collection of work that has been produced over the last few years. It is a record of the creative process and the challenges that have been faced. It is a testament to the resilience and creativity of the students who have taken part in this project.



*I realised you can take risks and do creative things,
even if you don't think it's going to turn out right*





Private View



Young people, their family, friends and school community celebrate at the launch with the Project Supporter, Artist and the Gallery team.





By K.Martin and Laura Blair © National Portrait Gallery

Project Artist - Simon Terrill

Simon Terrill is an Australian artist living in London who works with photography, sculpture, video and installation. In 2008 he was awarded the Samstag International Visual Arts Scholarship, which allowed him to spend a year at the Slade School of Fine Art, London. Recent exhibitions include *The Brutalist Playground*, collaboration with Assemble at the Royal Institute of British Architects; *Negotiating this World*, National Gallery of Victoria and *Crowd Theory Adelaide*, Samstag Museum of Art. Simon currently lectures in the history and theory of photography at London Southbank University.

The *Creative Connections* commission is the ninth iteration of Simon Terrill's *Crowd Theory* project, a series of photographic performance works.

Project Partner - St Saviour's and St Olave's School

St Saviour's and St Olave's is a fully inclusive and successful inner city Church of England comprehensive school for girls with a history that can be traced back to 1562. Many of the students have gone on to study at the most prestigious universities in the UK, but this academic success is far from the whole story. It is a community with shared values rooted in faith, where students have opportunities to grow into confident, caring and successful young women.

Project Participants

Alisha, Amber, Annalise, Anya, Arafah, Casey, Charis, Cindy, Daniella, Esther, Harlee, Jada, Juliet, Layla, Louise, Melanie, Mia, Mya, Priscilla, Regan, Teagon

Dame Vivienne Westwood, by Gain Paolo Barbieri, NPG x131334 © Gain Paolo Barbieri

Roots Manuva, by Jennie Baptiste, NPG x126334 © Jennie Baptiste

Adele, by Julian Broad, NPG x139549 © Julian Broad / National Portrait Gallery, London

Peter Tatchell, by Polly Borland, NP x88486 © Polly Borland

Rio Ferdinand, by Mark Guthrie, NPG x133053 © Mark Guthrie

Johnson Beharry, by Giles Price, NPG x131262 © National Portrait Gallery, London

Malorie Blackman, by Maud Sulter, NPG P949(2) © National Portrait Gallery, London

David Bowie, by Brian Duffy, NPG x137463 © Brian Duffy

James Lovelock, by Paul Tozer, NPG x45758 © Paul Tozer / National Portrait Gallery, London

npg.org.uk/creativeconnections